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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Small arms

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.7

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of the operative paragraphs of draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.7, the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to prepare a report, with the assistance of a panel group of qualified governmental experts to be nominated by him on the basis of equitable geographical representation, on:

(i) The types of small arms and light weapons actually being used in conflicts being dealt with by the United Nations;

(ii) The nature and causes of the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of small arms and light weapons, including their illicit production and trade;

(iii) The ways and means to prevent and reduce the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of small arms and light weapons, in particular as they cause or exacerbate conflict, with particular attention to the role of the United Nations in this field and to the complementary role of regional organizations, and taking into account views and proposals of Member States and all other relevant information, for submission to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session (para. 1);

(b) Also request the Secretary-General to seek the views and proposals of Member States on the matters contained in paragraph 1, to collect all other relevant information and to make them available for consideration by the panel of governmental experts referred to in paragraph 1 (para. 2);

(c) Decide to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Small arms" (para. 3).

B. Relationship of the request to the proposed programme of work

2. The above requests are related to major programme 1, Maintenance of peace and security, disarmament and decolonization, programme 7, Disarmament, of the revised medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, 1/ and subsection 2.C.4, Disarmament, of section 2, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. 2/

C. Activities by which the request would be implemented

3. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.7, the Secretary-General would appoint a panel of 15 qualified governmental experts, on the basis of equitable geographical representation, to assist him in preparing the report requested in operative paragraph 1 (a) of the draft resolution. These experts would serve in their individual capacity. The Secretary-General would provide the required substantive support services to the group of experts. In response to the request contained in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, the views and proposals of Member States would also be sought on the matters contained in operative paragraph 1, to collect all other relevant information and to make them available for consideration by the panel of governmental experts.

4. It is envisaged that the group of experts would hold three sessions, each session with two meetings per day and interpretation and documentation in the six official languages of the United Nations. The first session, a one-week organizational and substantive session, would be held in New York from 24 to 28 June 1996, at which time it is expected that the group would agree on a draft outline of the report. At the second session, to be held in New York for a period of two weeks, from 20 to 31 January 1997, it is assumed that the group would review and assess the draft report. At the third session, also expected to be held in New York for a period of two weeks, in April 1997, it is anticipated that the group would discuss and approve the final draft of the report.

5. In addition to conference-servicing requirements, implementation of the draft resolution would entail the provision of an estimated four work-months of consultancy services. The consultant would be required to have extensive knowledge and expertise of the nature and types of small arms and light weapons, including the patterns of their manufacture and procurement. The consultant would also assist in the preparation of drafts of the report and would attend meetings of the group.

D. Modifications required in the proposed programme of work for 1996-1997

6. The preparation of the report requested by the General Assembly in draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.7 would fall under programme 7, Disarmament, subprogramme 3, Monitoring, analysis and studies, activity 1 (b) Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. Accordingly, no modification would be required to that activity.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

7. The requirements arising from the activities described in paragraphs 3 to 5 above would consist of providing each session of the group of experts with two meetings per day (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) and would require interpretation and translation services in the six official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish), and are estimated at full cost as follows:

	First session 1996 $	Second session 1997 $	Third session 1997 $
(a) Conference-servicing costs			
(i) Pre-session documentation	57 000	56 100	56 100
(ii) Meeting servicing	76 200	158 100	158 100
(iii) In-session documentation	39 700	35 100	29 500
(iv) Post-session documentation	17 100	23 500	56 100
Subtotal	190 000	272 800	299 800
(b) Non-conference-servicing costs			
(i) Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 15 experts	77 000	101 600	103 000
(ii) Consultant services	8 800	10 000	15 100
Subtotal	85 800	111 600	118 100
Grand total (a) and (b)	275 800	384 400	417 900

F. Potential for absorption

8. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 makes provision for consultants who would be required in connection with the preparation of background papers for various ad hoc expert groups under section 2, Political affairs, programme 7, Disarmament, subprogramme 3, Monitoring, analysis and studies. Accordingly, the requirements of $33,900 estimated in connection with four work-months of consultancy services in 1996-1997, to assist in the preparation of the draft report, would be absorbed within those provisions. With respect to the requirements of $281,600 estimated for travel and daily subsistence allowance of the 15 experts to attend the expected three sessions during 1996-1997, it is anticipated that these would be met from resources to be approved under section 2.C.4, Disarmament. No additional appropriations would therefore be required.

9. As regards conference-servicing costs of $190,000, $272,800 and $299,800 for the anticipated first, second and third sessions, respectively, of the group of experts, outlined in paragraphs 4 and 7 above, to be held in New York, the extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences for 1996-1997. However, provisions are made under section 26E of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, not only for meetings programmed at the time of preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences are consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years. Additional appropriations would therefore not be required in that regard.

G. Indication of additional requirements

10. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.7, no additional requirements would arise under sections 2C and 26E of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1), vol. I.

2/ Ibid., Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/50/6/Rev.1), vol. I.